

What is claimed is:

1. A perforated nonwoven fabric having a mass per unit area of 8 to 17 g/m² made of interlaced continuous microfiber filaments having a titer in the range from 0.05 to 0.40 dtex, which are composed of at least two different filaments made of thermoplastic polymers having different hydrophobicity and have a filament cross-section in ~~cake-piece~~ pie or hollow pie form, which from which the split filaments have been released from ~~fibers containing~~, the perforations being clearly formed and being free of split-fiber filaments.

2. The perforated nonwoven fabric as recited in Claim 1, wherein the perforations are evenly spaced and have an individual-hole area of 0.01 to 0.60 cm².

3. The perforated nonwoven fabric as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein in the nonwoven fabric, the ratio of the maximum distance from points on the nonwoven surface to the next perforation, to the minimum distance is 1:1 to 2:1.

4. The perforated nonwoven fabric as recited in one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein the open hole area is 8 to 40%.

5. The perforated nonwoven fabric as recited in one of Claims 1 through 4, wherein the perforated nonwoven fabric is composed of polyolefin and polyester filaments in a weight ratio in the range of 20:80 to 80:20.

6. The perforated nonwoven fabric as recited in one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the nonwoven fabric is impregnated with 0 to

0.60% by weight, specific to the nonwoven weight, of at least one surface-active agent.

7. The perforated nonwoven fabric as recited in one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the strike through value after one minute is less than 3 seconds, the rewet value is less than 0.59 and the tensile strength in the longitudinal direction is at least 30N/5 cm.

8. A method for producing perforated nonwoven fabrics as recited in one of Claims 1 through 7 by laying up splittable pie or hollow pie continuous fibers, whose cross-section has at least two different thermoplastic polymers having different hydrophobicity in an alternating cake-piece arrangement, to form a nonwoven fabric, subsequent splitting and entanglement of the ~~fibers~~ **split filaments** by high-pressure water jets to form interlaced ~~continuous filaments~~ **microfiber filaments**, followed by perforation of the nonwoven fabric formed using high-pressure water jets.

9. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the perforating is carried out on hydroextraction and hole-forming cylinders which have elevations on the surface.

10. The use of perforated nonwoven fabrics as recited in one of Claims 1 through 7 as topsheet in hygiene products such as diapers or sanitary napkins.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY